

A high-angle, black and white aerial photograph of a city's street grid, showing a dense network of roads and buildings. A large, dark, irregularly shaped area, possibly a park or a large building complex, is visible in the center-right of the image.

**IMMERSIVE  
LEARNING.  
SUSTAINABLE  
PLANNING.**

PROGRAMS IN

**CITY PLANNING &  
URBAN AFFAIRS**

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# OVERVIEW

The majority of the world's population lives in cities. Keeping these communities vitalized, connected, and safe requires the vision and expertise of urban policymakers, planners, and practitioners who will embrace a range of social, economic, and geographic challenges in grappling with the fact that there are few, if any, simple solutions or approaches to urban issues. A wealth of opportunity exists in areas such as public policy analysis, housing and development, economic and environmental planning, green IT, service delivery, community leadership, urban development, transportation, and sustainability.

When you complete a City Planning or Urban Affairs program at Metropolitan College, you'll be prepared to enter your chosen field with the resources to critically analyze and creatively

address urban and planning issues. The analytical and practical skills you gain through internship opportunities and exposure to faculty and visiting lecturers of diverse professional backgrounds are complemented by useful connections to planners, policy makers, and community activists from Greater Boston and beyond. Just as importantly, the perspectives and experience you'll discover in our socially diverse classrooms will prepare you thoroughly for the work environment that faces most planners, policy analysts, and community advocates.

Those in the fields of city planning and urban affairs are tasked with laying the foundation for the future welfare of urban environments. By providing a global perspective on planning and urbanization, we prepare our students to make a difference in the community—and in the world.



**JOIN US TODAY TO PLAN FOR A BETTER TOMORROW.**

# PROGRAMS

Boston University's Metropolitan College City Planning & Urban Affairs programs challenge students to regard cities—and the roles played by planners, policymakers, and social advocates—in a critical and thoughtful light. Students learn from faculty with expertise in areas such as sustainable development, climate change, transportation, land reclamation, city finance, regional economics, and urban design, and benefit from a curriculum that embraces sustainability, creativity, pragmatism, and diversity of thought.

Our students have access to a network of planners, policymakers, and community activists from Greater Boston and beyond—and as graduates they are prepared to distinguish themselves as critical, open-minded thinkers and inventive problem

solvers ready for the myriad political, social, and technical challenges that arise in urban planning and policymaking.

Augmenting the academic, professional, and social resources of Boston University—the fourth-largest private university in the nation—are nearly four centuries of lessons to be learned from Boston's urban history. Broad-scoped planning projects such as the Back Bay landfill in the 1800s and the "Big Dig" in the late twentieth century have molded the city's neighborhoods and economy—and new initiatives such as South Boston's Seaport "Innovation District" continue to feed the imagination.

Students may study on a full- or part-time basis. Courses are held primarily during evening hours.





## Bachelor of Science in Urban Affairs

*Twelve distribution courses (48 credits), four required core courses (16 credits), six major electives (24 credits), two related courses (8 credits), and eight general electives (32 credits)*

This self-paced, evening bachelor's degree program prepares students for further study and jobs in urban public policy, community development and service delivery, and the administration of public and private agencies in urban settings. The Urban Affairs major and minor combine a foundation in the liberal arts with relevant disciplinary and interdisciplinary courses.

## Master of City Planning

*Six core courses (24 credits) and ten electives (40 credits)*

The City Planning master's degree prepares students for a wide variety of professional roles in planning for urban and regional development. During the course of their study, students can specialize in an array of complex issues and policy areas that include: environmental sustainability, land use, housing, and community development; infrastructure planning; transportation planning; and urban design. This professional graduate degree is intended for those pursuing careers in planning-related fields, and designed to be completed in one and a half to two years if taken full time. Graduates work as town and city planners, community development directors, research analysts, and policy experts with federal, state, and local governments; nonprofit and nongovernmental organizations; corporations; and research institutions.

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"As a former U.S. Army officer, I'm passionate about public service. I was looking for a chance to continue serving, but also a new skill set to transition to a new career. The City Planning and Urban Affairs program gave me a chance to build new skills, collaborate with working professionals in my new field of study, and leverage my military leadership experience into a new public sector career."

**Tiana Alves, ENV SP, LEED GA, Master of City Planning '15**

Community Planner, U.S. Department of Transportation's Volpe National Transportation Systems Center





## Master of Urban Affairs

Six core courses (24 credits) and three electives (12 credits)

This program is designed for students seeking a broad background in urban public policy, community development and service delivery, and the administration of public and private agencies in urban settings. Graduates are prepared for careers in the public, private, or nonprofit sectors in which they assemble and analyze information for policy-making, identify community needs and resources, and administer effective service-delivery programs—tasks which are common to organizations in a wide variety of urban functions, such as housing, health services, economic development, transportation, and environment control. Many students obtain the Master of Urban Affairs degree in preparation for further study, or to seek advancement in their current job or field.

## Graduate Certificate in Applied Sustainability

Four courses (16 credits)

This four-course graduate certificate program offers a unique interdisciplinary look at what it takes to make urban and economic development compatible with the natural environment. Coursework guides students through the foundations of ecology; current theories of sustainability; methods for optimizing energy and land use; building management techniques; the politics, law, and economics of the global green movement; and the relationship between IT and the consumption of resources. All credits earned toward the Graduate Certificate in Applied Sustainability may be applied to the Master of Urban Affairs or the Master of City Planning degrees.





"I appreciate the City Planning and Urban Affairs program because it requires students to develop actionable solutions to real world problems. The professors are diverse in their academic and professional fields of expertise. They challenge students to combine theory with practice to develop urban policies that address primary areas of concern like social justice, economic security, and environmental protection."

**Darrell Higginbottom**, Master of Urban Affairs '15  
Fire Captain, City of Boston Fire Department

**Boston University** Metropolitan College  
Department of Applied Social Sciences

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## LEARN MORE

For detailed information about BU's City Planning and Urban Affairs programs, including course descriptions, admission policies, faculty bios, and more, visit [bu.edu/cityplanning](http://bu.edu/cityplanning).

Please call 617-353-3025 or email [cityplan@bu.edu](mailto:cityplan@bu.edu) with any questions you may have.

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